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Trapped: Families and Schizophrenia. By LLOYD H. ROGLER and AUGUST B. HOLLINGSHEAD. New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1965. xiii, 436 pp. $8.95.

This is a report of a field study of 40 impoverished Puerto Rican families, living in slums or public housing in San Juan, 20 of which include spouses whom psychiatric evaluation has designated as either mentally healthy or merely neurotic, the other 20 with at least one spouse designated as schizophrenic. A wide variety of data were gathered, some specifically for psychiatric evaluation, including opinions about health and the availability of medical services, family history, social and geographical mobility, family activities, conceptions of mental illness, attitudes toward spiritualism, and the personal problems met within the course of a year. The "sick" families were drawn from individuals who sought help from or were referred to psychiatric services within a given year, and who, upon a home visit, proved to be schizophrenic, between 20 and 39 years of age, living in the same household as the spouse, of low socioeconomic status, and a "new case" to psychiatric agencies. The "well" families were drawn by carrying out a household survey in residential areas contiguous to the sick families and randomly sampling the pool of those who matched the sick families, save for their mental health.

Several chapters describe the childhood experiences of the 80 spouses who were the focus of the study, seeking in part to determine whether there were any differences in such experience between schizophrenics and non-schizophrenics. Every aspect of childhood examined, with the one exception of frequent nightmares, proved to have no statistically significant relation to mental health. From the age of 15 to marriage, statistically significant relationships were more common, but still without much of a clear pattern. Both sick and well had essentially similar histories of employment, migration, physical illness, and sexual and courtship experience, though accidents were more frequent among the sick, and schizophrenic men were more likely to have been legally rather than consensually married. At a certain point after marriage, however, the mentally ill were far more likely to have experienced physical illness or accidents.

The remainder of the book is concerned with the problems and consequences of mental illness. There is an excellent chapter on the character of the social label, *loco,* and the consequences of the stigmatization its application occasions, and another on the way native spiritualism functions to substitute a more palatable label for the behavior involved, with integrative consequences. Relying largely on case histories, the authors also discuss spouses' expectations of marriage, the families' economic plight, sexual conflicts, patterns of authority in sick and well families, the role of extended kin in giving help in times of trouble and, finally, parents' attitudes toward their children.

The raw content is the strength of the book. It presents some very good, sometimes vivid data on the life of the poor in San Juan. And, while the sample is small, it was drawn and studied with care. However, reading it leaves one full, but still hungry. The findings are essentially negative—little relation being found between schizophrenia and most childhood and later experiences. Most of the positive findings have to do with the social concomitants and consequences of schizophrenia, etiology remaining quite obscure. But the authors are not inclined to think very hard about this. It is true that at the very end of the book they suggest that schizophrenia among the poor may be reactive rather than developmental, resulting from overwhelming environmental situations such as loss of job, physical illness, death in the family, and spiralling into subsequent deterioration as inability to cope reinforces itself and the role of *loco* is assigned by others. But these conclusions are mostly put as a summary of the raw findings, without discussion of similar or contradictory findings by others, relevant theories of schizophrenia and alternative interpretations of their own data. In short, the book lacks the imaginative and incisive elaboration that makes conclusions persuasive to the reader.

What we are left with, then, is a book well worth reading for its excellent description of the lives of some impoverished families in Puerto Rico. Anything more than that the reader must himself provide by thinking about the data.

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The Mental Patient Comes Home. By HOWARD E. FREEMAN and OZZIE G. SIMMONS. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1963. xi, 309 pp. $7.95.

This is a report of a study based on two prior investigations of ex-mental patients from institutions located in the Boston metropolitan area. Results from these earlier studies suggested to the authors that the "tolerance of deviance" hypothesis warranted further investigation in exlaining differences in the fate of these patients after leaving the mental hospital and returning to their families. The numerous

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